METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Play constructive role

PM asks trade union leaders

UNB. Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged trade union leaders to play more constructive role in line with national and international realities to help industrialisation, increase productivity and establish just rights of workers.

She made the call on the eve of historic May Day, while addressing a function as part of a two-day programme undertaken by the labour and employment Ministry in observance of the May Day at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The prime minister called upon all to work unitedly by sinking all differences to help people come out of the vicious cycle of poverty. She stressed the need for cordial worker-employer relations for rapid industrialisation and boosting productivity,

Khaleda said the recommendations of the Wage Commission would be implemented soon, as the cabinet has very recently approved it.

She said her government formed Pay Commission and Wage Commission despite resource constraints, and the recommendations of the Pay Commission have been implemented

The prime minister expressed the optimism that the nation will be able to attain prosperity through tapping its

ARSON ATTACK Noor, Maya, Nanak, Azam get anticipatory bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 10 Awami League leaders and workers, including lawmakers Asaduz-zaman Noor and Mirza Azam, in an arson attack case

filed by the government. After hearing a bail petition filed by the accused leaders and workers, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan also issued a rule-nishi upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the case.

World Press The bail order will continue until submission of the police report in the Freedom Day case. The petitioners, including

on May 3 Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, Dhaka City AL General Secretary Mofazzal **UNB**, Dhaka Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Journalists across the world will Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam MP yesterday appeared in persons before the High Court bench for bail in the case.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at a discussion marking the May Day at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

potential resources. "Our future is

politics: B Chy

promising. We want to make our present vibrant with work and make the future bright and prosperous taking inspiration from our glorious past," she told the function. 'So all will have to work together,

forgetting all differences, otherwise the country cannot come out of the vicious cycle of poverty," she

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

greater interest of people.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB)

President Prof AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury yesterday called for

introducing TV-based politics for the

He suggested the new system

while addressing a function at BDB

central office where hundreds of

people led by former BNP legislator

Barrister Zahirul Islam Haque and

Organising Secretary of Jatiya Party

(Ershad) Gulzar Hossain joined the

Prof Chowdhury said nowadays

television has become a very popular

media where all political parties will

State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman MP presided over the function. Syed Maniur Elahi. president of Bangladesh Employers Federation, General

Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Md Zafrul Hasan and ILO representative Gopal Bhathachariya also spoke at the function

Introduce TV-based

Tribute paid to Nasreen Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social, women and humar rights organisations gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to pay tribute to late Nasreen Pervin Hug, country director of Action Aid.

Observing one-minute silence in respect of her soul, the meeting was followed by recalling memories by her family members, relatives and her near ones of the organisations with which Nasreen was engaged.

Moderator of the programme Actress Sara Zaker read out a paper illustrating Nasreen's contribution in different fields including women and children health, and human rights.

The paper read Nasreen was an internationally renowned personality and people around the world are mourning for her. Condolence meet ings are being held in 42 cities in seven continents of the globe, it added.

PHOTO: PID

The speakers recalled her role protesting declaration of Islam as state religion by eighth amendment of the constitution in 1988.

Hundreds of social activists, educationists, intellectuals and students across the country took par in the meeting organised by ActionAid, Nijera Kori, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Naripakkha, Nari Maitri, Mohila Parishad and Gonoshastha Kendra

A group of acid victims sang songs in memory of Nasreen who helped them in many ways with her own earning

Lazina Muna, sister of late young pilot Faria Lara who died in a plane crash during her training, recited an elegy composed by Nasreen on the occasion of Lara's tragic death.

The function ended with lighting up of candles at the pedestal of the Shaheed Minar praying salvation of her departed soul and welfare for the humankind.

Sechchasebok Dal activist killed in N'ganj

BSS, Narayanganj

A Sechchasebok Dal activist was stabbed to death by his rivals near Ahsan Ullah Super Market at Murapara Market under Sonargaon upazila of the district on Saturday.

Police identified the victim as Mirza Salahuddin Ritu. 30, son of Abdur Rouf of village Habibpur of the Advocate Sabera Khatun and same upazila.

He was attacked by his rivals numbering 10 to 15 when he was going home after completing his day's work at his shop at Murapara.

Sonargaon police recovered the mutilated body and sent it to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with

'Women deprived of rights Khaleda greets Koirala in absence of specific law' UNB, Dhaka Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yester-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In absence of specific law against domestic violence women are deprived of their rights in the society, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said as domestic violence is an unrecognised offence the women have to file case against dowry which is a clear misuse of existing law. The discussion titled 'Responsibili-

ties of the country and society to resist domestic violence: Bangladesh perspective' was organised by Action Network to Combat Violence Against Women (ANCVAW) at the National Press Club in the city.

Moderated by Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Sultana Kamal, the discussion was also addressed by women leaders Maleka Begum, Barrister Sara Hossain, Advocate Salma Ali of BNWLA and Dr

Stackpole dismisses any plan of US military base in the bay

and rescue operations and observed

that the US government could look

into this aspect of enhancing the

high-technology warning systems,

which could be shared with the scien-

tists in Bangladesh so that loss from

"Through the Operation Sea Angel

On religious extremism, Gen

Stackpole, who was also the president of

the Asia Pacific Centre for Security

Studies, said terrorism is a cancer and a

including the JMB, are local except for

Al-Qaeda, Abu Saveem group in the

Philippines or Jamaat-e-Islam in

He said most terrorist outfits,

source of global concern.

Besides, he said, the US has got

country's capability effectively.

UNB. Dhaka

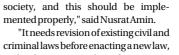
US General (retd.) Henry C Stackpole, who led a massive rescue mission following a catastrophic cyclone in Chittagong in 1991, dismissed any plan of the United States to set up a marine unit or base on the Bay of Bengal or its offshore islands.

catastrophe could be less. "You can't "No, I don't see it happening," he said during an interview with the UNB at Hotel Radisson in the city on Saturday

Bangladesh to commemorate the 15th

tres, which are being used for other purposes like schools and medical centres; you have better information technology and communication that gives early warning about any natural disaster.'

Bangladesh needs more resources like speedboats and helicopters for relief



and at the same time the enforcers must have minimum knowledge on those laws," said Barrister Sara Hossain.

Nusrat Amin.

" Almost 90 percent cases of torture are of domestic violence and it takes place at every level in the society," Salma Ali said, adding that the women should be given support service including psychological counselling.

She said a research should be conducted seriously to find out whether new laws should be enacted or the reformed laws would do the needful. Citing the example of fatwa, Sultana

Kamal said patriarchal society justifies domestic violence through it although it

"A new law should be enacted "The issue of human rights is not a considering the family structures of the complex issue, rather the way of achieving rights is complex as the society and state is involved in it," Maleka Begum said, adding that it is the time to highlight the strategies to resist domestic

Indonesia

strike again."

violence. Hosainul Hague of ANCVAW read out the keynote paper defining domestic violence, its impact on women and the responsibilities of the society to combat the violence

Khaleda Khatun of USAID, Nadira Mallik of South Asia Partnership-Bangladesh, Zahura Fatema of Concern Women for Family Development, Mahbuba Mahmud of Naripakkha, Advocate Supriya Chakrabarty and representatives of different rights organisations were also present on the occasion

The US general said the responsi-

bility of a government is not only to

curb terrorism but also to find out

reasons why people are attracted to

"I see JMB lost much of its leader-

ship as a result of good work done by

the Bangladesh authorities and forces,

but you can't be complacent as some

elements might have slipped out to

have ongoing cooperation in providing

Bangladesh's police and military

officers with support to enhance their

In reply to a question, Gen.

Stackpole, who is also familiar with

Bangladesh's politics, said he does not

think that the Bangladesh army, which

has great reputation in UN peacekeep-

ing mission, would intend to interfere

he hoped that political leaderships

would be able to reach a mutual under-

About the forthcoming elections,

in the country's political affairs.

bating corruption and illiteracy.

Jonathan Cebra was present during

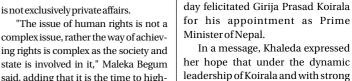
a free and fair election.

the interview.

capability of countering terrorism.

He said the US and Bangladesh

such devastating path.



popular support he would be able to successfully guide the people of Nepal towards peace, stable democracy and economic prosperity. As a close neighbour and fellow member of Saarc, she assured him

that the government of Bangladesh would continue to work in close cooperation with his government towards further consolidation and strengthening of democracy and addressing poverty.

She also expressed her hope that the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries would deepen further in the days ahead.



Prof Husna Banu passes away

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Prof Dr Husna Banu, eminent educationist, writer, Rabindra Sangeet singer and former teacher of Home Economics College, passed away due to cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 81

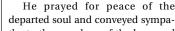
She left behind her two daughters and host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was sister of late Fateh Lohani standing so that people could vote to and Fazle Lohani and Dhaka choose their next government through University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz is her son-in-law.

He said Bangladesh needs a long-Her namaz-e-janaza was held at term vision and checks and balances of the Dhaka University central mosque the executive and the judiciary to after Asr prayers. She was laid to achieve economic progress by cometernal rest at the Banani Graveyard. Director of the American Centre BSS adds: President Iajuddin

Ahmed expressed his deep shock at the death of Prof Husna Banu. Iajuddin went to the resident of Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor

Prof SMA Faiz to pay last respect to her He prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympa-



cation network, since 1991. victims of natural disasters.

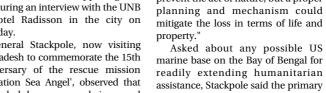
Stackpole, however, said

prevent the act of nature, but a proper General Stackpole, now visiting

anniversary of the rescue mission 'Operation Sea Angel', observed that Bangladesh has enormously improved its capability of mitigating the suffering of humanity from any natural disaster,

such as cyclone centres and communi-

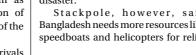
responding to the emergency needs for food, water and medicine for the



purpose of military is to ensure security and then to work on humanitarian assistance. Besides, he said, setting up

in terms of developing infrastructure any military unit is very costly. He said the civil society and the

"You've now more cyclone cen-



we've developed a principle of how to work in another sovereign nation," he armed forces are now more capable of said, adding that the US government would readily respond to Bangladesh's request in case of any major natural catastrophe since it is not possible for a single nation to cope with it.

Paltan police filed the case accusing them of obstructing the police in discharging their duties during the hartal programme on April 23.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru moved for the petitioners before the court.

20 injured as Shibir clashes with BCL

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 20 persons were injured, 10 among them seriously, in sporadic clashes between activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Chandpur Government College campus yesterday.

Sources said the clashes were the result of an altercation between two Shibir and BCL men in front of the principal's office on Saturday.

The BCL activists first attacked Shibir men in the college library yesterday, leaving district Jamaat-e-Islami leader Md Asifullah and Shibir activists KM Anwar, Mahbub Alam, Mosaddeg Ali and Mainul Islam seriously injured.

This sparked chasing-counter chasing and clashes between the two groups.

Witnesses said some Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists joined the Shibir men at one stage

Forces from the Sadar Police Station rushed to the college campus to control the situation.

Clashes also flared up on the Chandpur-Comilla Road.

At 2:30pm, three Shibir activists were allegedly attacked and seriously injured by BCL workers in front of the Sadar Hospital.

One Jamaat and seven Shibir activists were admitted to sadar hospital while three BCL activists were admitted to a private clinic. The condition of district Jamaat's Publicity Secretary Arifullah was stated to be serious

Additional police forces were deployed on and around the college campus

observe the World Press Freedom Day on May 3 to protest against persecution and harassment of their colleagues and closure of news media

organisations in many countries. The journalists will take a fresh oath to fight against those who are trying to curb press freedom. Nearly 500 journalists were arrested and jailed around the world in 2005, according to a statistics.

In a statement Sunday, CJA International President Hassan Shahriar said the scenario is the same in a number of Commonwealth countries where journalists have been protesting against violations by governments as well by others. "The media cannot sit idle; it will

continue to highlight governments' incompetence, corruption, mismanagement, lack of transparency and absence of accountability, no matter how draconian the rulers are," he

villages: 50 houses damaged

Tornado hits

Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

be given equal time to highlight their

been introduced in the developed

countries enabling the viewers to pick

crore is needed to hold a rally at any

place, and people face severe troubles

in their daily journey when any politi-

cal party organises a rally inside a

political parties reduce their expendi-

ture as rally, procession and public

Prof Chowdhury also blamed

BDB leaders Firoj Al Hasan,

Advocate Joynul Abedeen Jahedi also

gathering will not be needed, he said.

BNP-led four-party alliance govern-

ment for the attack on his house

Besides, the new system will help

town or city."

vesterday.

spoke.

up enlightened candidates easily.

He said this system has already

Prof Chowdhury said Tk 1 to 2

policies and programmes to people.

Over 50 houses, one school and a mosque, were damaged in two villages in Patuakhali as a powerful tornado hit the area vesterday afternoon.

The tornado hit at 3:50pm and lasted only two minutes over Balai Kathi village damaging over 30 houses. A jame-mosque of the village was also damaged.

> At south Sehakathi village, 10 shops, five houses and a schoolhouse were damaged. A wooden boat also sank in Sehakathi River. Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer

(UNO) SM Selim Reza visited the tornado-affected area.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

said

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squall wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the region of Mymensingh in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature.

Mild to moderate heat wave may sweep over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Chittagong, Noakhali and Comilla.

Highest temperature 40.5 degree Celsius was recorded vesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Teknaf, Srimongal and Bogra. The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:24am tomor-

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	37.1	24.3	42	43
Chittagong	32.5	25.6	76	76
Rajshahi	39.0	23.8	50	35
Khulna	39.0	25.3	51	34
Barisal	36.0	23.2		70
Sylhet	35.7	23.8	45	40
Cox's Bazar	31.5	23.4	59	74

Sonargaon police in this connection. No was arrested in this connection, the sources said.

2nd raffle draw of 'Coca-Cola Fun Island' held

The second raffle draw of "Coca-Cola Fun Island" under the Crown Programme 2006 was held on Saturday at Tabani Beverage Company Ltd under the guidance of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust, says a press release.

Names of seven people were announced as winners of the raffle draw.

They are Md Wahed Ali, S/o Nabab Ali of village Dighulia under Tangail district, Sheikh Shahajahan Ali, S/o late Sheikh Abul Hossain, Abul Hotel, Basundia More, village Basundia under Kotwali Police Station in Jessore, Abdul Aleem, Muslim Fast Food, 7 No. Masjid Market, Asadgate, Mirpur Road, Dhaka, Angshuman Sen Gupta, C/o Liton Deb, 50, Narinda Road, Dhaka, Ghorer Chowa Restaurant, 6/Kha-1/15, Senpara Parbota, Anwar Mansion, Mirpur Circle-10, Dhaka, Khandakar Md Noor Alm, Himel Enterprise (Ground Floor), 42/1-Kha, Segunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka and Md Hasanuzzaman (Mithu), Sohan Garments, 393/36A Gausia Market (4th Floor), Dhaka.

All seven will have the opportunity to travel Pattaya, Bangkok for three nights and four days with one person each as companion.

As a part of this programme Tajuddin Ahmed, Senior Finance Executive, Coca-Cola Far East Ltd, handed over a cheque for Tk 50,000 for the welfare fund of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust to Wahidur Rahman, General Manager Bangladesh Muktijo-ddha Kalyan Trust.

The Coca-Cola Company has started this "Coca-Cola Fun Island" under the Crown Programme 2006 from April 10, 2006 and will continue till June 10, 2006. In this programme 50 lucky winners will have the opportunity to travel Pattaya, Bangkok for three nights and four days with one person each as companion.



Newly appointed Palestinian Ambassador Shaher Mohammad, middle, called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday. Hasina's son Sajib Wajed Joy was also present.

Indigenous people rallies

Dinajpur yesterday afternoon. Thousands of indigenous people of Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Joypurhat, Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh panicked by the prospect of an open pit coalmine at Phulbari gathered at the rally where Santu Larma was chief guest.

They protested the plan of setting up the coal mining plant at Phulbari where Asia Energy Corporation (AEC) intends to use the open pit method. The protest rally was held on Phulbari Government College ground

where speakers urged the government to cancel the coalmine deal with Asia Energy. The meeting was organised by National Indigenous Council, an organisation of indigenous communi-

The speakers told the rally that at least five lakh people including 50,000 indigenous people will be dislocated if

The affected area might lose natural vegetation and the water level might fall bringing adverse effect on agriculture, which would lead to food

The area might lose fish resources in its ponds as the marshlands would fall under the mining area, the speakers said.

ers alleged.

interest of the country, they said extraction of coal in open pit method will cause damage to the environment of the whole area and will also hinder economic activities of the area.

The speakers also said according to the agreement, Asia Energy will extract coal for 30 years and will export two thirds of the quantity.

The company will hold the ownership during the mining period while Bangladesh will receive only six percent royalty from it as well as taxes and duties, they said.

The rally chaired by Anil Marandee, where Prof Mezbah Kamal, Fazle Hossain Badsha, and Pankaj Bhattacharya spoke.

Santu Larma in his speech alleged that neither BNP nor Awami League paid heed to indigenous peoples' demands for constitutional rights for indigenous communities, separate ministry for them, and a land commission, rather they prefer to deprive the communities though they are citizens of the country.

Larma also alleged that Forest Department of Dinajpur grabbed at least 26,000 acres of indigenous communities' land in Phulbari. Birganj, Birampur, Parbatipur, Nawabganj and Dinajpur Sadar upazila in the name of forest development financed by Asian Development Bank.

Larma urged the indigenous

thy to the members of the bereaved family

Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina also in a statement expressed her deep shock at the death of Prof Husna Banu.

Hasina, also Awami League President, prayed for salvation of her departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Mofizuddin Ahmed BSS. Dhaka

Mofizuddin Ahmed, former superintendent of police (SP), passed away due to old-age complications on Saturday at his residence in Dhaka at the age of 80.

He is survived by his three daughters and a son.

His gulkhwani will be held at 4:30pm today at House No. 46/F, Road No. 7 at Banani here.

Death anniversary

Гoday is the 21st death anniversarv of Serajuddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Paint Group of

Serajuddin, was also founder

Local people fear that more than director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, 4,70,000 people of Phulbari, former president of Chittagong Nababganj, Birampur and Parbatipur upazilas, including 50,000 of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries indigenous communities, will be and former chairman of Tea Traders' displaced. Asia Energy, however, Association of Bangladesh (TTAB). predicts the total number to be On the occasion, a milad mahfil

will be held at his Gulshan residence.

Abdur Rashid

AEC is now awaiting an agreement with the government to develop the Phulbari open pit coal mine at an expense of US\$1.6 billion.

Asia Energy Corporation (AEC)

sources said the affected people will

Energy sets up the coalmining plant.

world's highest environmental stan-

dards, and any negative impact on the

environment will be managed with

high priority, he said.

around 50,000.

be relocated locally

The project will maintain the

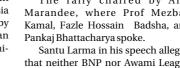
The life of the mine will be 30 years and it has a reserve of around 572 million tons of coal, an AEC source said. The project will create 10,000

If the Bangladesh government signs the deal, the company will go into production in 2008, and it believes it will extract 15 million tons of coal a year for export and for use in domestic coal-fired power plants.

The second death anniversary of Abdur Rashid, a retired senior assistant police commissioner, will be observed today, says a

press release. He died on this day in 2004 at the age

of 83. Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



the mining plant goes into operation.

shortage.

Though its damages might not be visible in the short-run, its long-term harm could be irreparable, the speak-

Terming the contract against the

people to protect their ancestral places with their last drop of blood. When contacted, an official of Asia Energy, Ahsan Habib Deepu, told The Dailly Star that at least 5,000 indigenous people will be relocated if Asia

PHOTO: STAR

Company Ltd, says a press

release